

Loney, Natalie

From: Loney, Natalie
Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2022 11:50 AM
To: Byck, Sabina
Subject: RE: For Natalie quick review: feel free to edit Gowanus note

Edits below.

From: Byck, Sabina <Byck.Sabina@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2022 11:02 AM
To: Loney, Natalie <Loney.Natalie@epa.gov>
Subject: For Natalie quick review: feel free to edit Gowanus note

Hi Lisa and Walter,

On November 29, the special facilitator EPA hired will be presenting their findings to the Gowanus CAG sharing that there is a need and interest for the CAG **to develop a new charter to take steps to address issues identified in the assessment.** There is no action for you, but we wanted to make sure you are aware of where we are with this issue. The slides are attached for everyone's awareness.

As you know, PAO procured a special neutral facilitator through EPA's Conflict Prevention and Resolution Center (CPRC) earlier this year to respond to concerns related to diversity, ways to serve the broader community, hostile behavior from CAG members that were raised by the site Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC), the Gowanus Community Advisory Group (CAG) neutral facilitator, and CAG members. CAG members were interviewed by the CPRC facilitator and the majority of those interviewed indicated that they would like to **reorganize the CAG under a new charter that provides structure to the organization** **restructure the CAG to address the self-identified deficiencies.**

Natalie will be speaking on behalf of EPA at the CAG meeting and will be making the following points.

- EPA believes CAG has been a valued partner in the remediation of the Gowanus.
- Based on the CAG's self-assessment, changes need to be made to improve the structure and operations of the CAG.
- **EPA is prepared to provide specialized assistance in organization development to aid the CAG in its restructuring.**
- EPA recognizes that it is up to the CAG to decide to accept any assistance that is offered or make any necessary changes
- If the CAG chooses to not make the necessary changes to address the issues identified in the assessment, EPA will conduct an evaluation of the CAG based on the CAG Guidance. Should the evaluation conclude that the CAG is no longer meeting the parameters (mission, membership, roles and responsibilities, operations and documentation) and no longer functioning appropriately, EPA can withdraw its support for the CAG.

Let us know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Sabina